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SCOTT SNYDER RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

AMERICAN VAMPIRE

S E C O N D C Y C L E

May '14
suggested for
mature readers
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(WE CAN'T STAY MUCH LONGER, WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF FOOD.)

(WE NEED TO WAIT FOR NAKAI'S RETURN TO SEE IF THE PASS IS CLEARABLE, MAKING A GO OF IT WITH THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN...IF THE SNOW BECOMES WORSE...)



(WORSE? SNOW IN THE WARM SEASON? IT CAN'T LAST, IT HAS TO BE AN UNNATURAL OCCURRENCE. WE CAN'T BE AFRAID.)

(HEH, BELIEVE ME, HO'KEE, WHEN YOU'RE CHIEF, YOU'LL LEARN THAT UNNATURAL OCCURRENCES ARE USUALLY WHAT SIGNAL A CHANGE IN THE NATURA--)



(FATHER! LOOK! THERE!)

(IT'S NAKAI! HE'S BACK!)



CHAI! HEY THERE, SLOWPOKE, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? WE WERE WORRIED... ?



(...SICK.)







SHOW
TIME.

AMERICAN VAMPIRE SECOND CYCLE PART ONE

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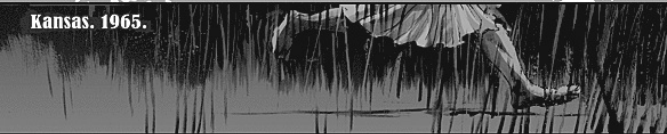
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AMERICAN VAMPIRE CREATED BY **SNYDER & ALBUQUERQUE**

Kansas. 1965.



OH
DIRRRRTY
FEET! WE'RE
RIGHT BEHIND
YOU!



...PLEASE
PLEASE PLEASE
PLEASE
PLEASE...



COULDN'T BE ON
THAT PORCH, NOW, COULD
YOU? COULDN'T BE HIDING
THERE? HEH.



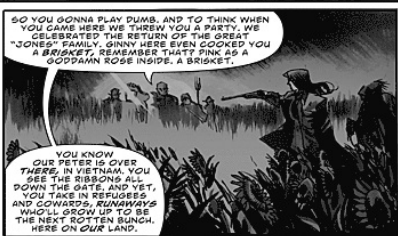
NOW LISTEN HERE,
GIRL. I'M GOING TO PART
THESE STALKS ON THREE,
AND THEN YOU'RE GOING
TO COME DOWN TO US,
REEEEAL SLOW, REAL NICE
ON THOSE FILTHY FEET OF
YOURS. HERE WE GO.
ONE, TWO...





HELLO,
BOB.

SO
NICE TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN.





THIS ISN'T
OVER.

COME
ON,
GINNY.

A POX ON YOU, HENRIETTA
JONES! A POX ON YOU FOR
RUNNING DOWN OUR HOMES,
OUR COUNTRY!



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH,
I'D TAKE A POX ANY
DAY OVER ANY MORE
OF THAT BRISKET,
GINNY.



YOU CAN COME
DOWN FROM
THERE, NOW.

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?



...MAY. MY
NAME'S
MAY.



MAY,
MY NAME--
MY REAL
NAME--IS
PEARL.
PEARL
JONES.



I HEARD...
I HEARD YOU TAKE
US IN! BUT I DON'T
WANT TO CAUSE YOU
TROUBLE WITH YOUR
NEIGHBORS.



DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
THEM. THEY'RE
GONE, AND I
WON'T LET THEM
GET YOU, NOT
EVER.

"HE'S COMING
FOR US, MAN!"

SCREEECHHH

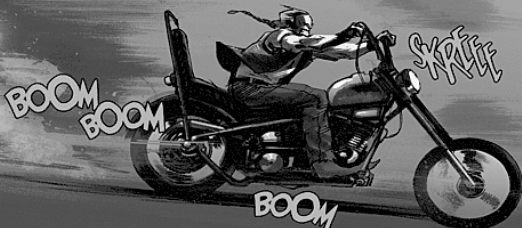
HE'S STILL
GODDAMN
COMING!

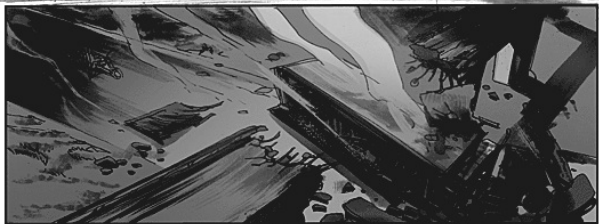
Texas/Mexico border. Near Juarez.





HOWDY,
MOTHERFUCKERS!
GOT ANY CANDY
FOR ME?







DID YOU
JUST INSULT
MY BIKE?



AH,
DESSERT
SPEAKS.

BUT SEE, I'M
STARTING TO FEEL
LIKE I GOT ALL THE GUNS
I CAN HANDLE. SO I'M
AFRAID THIS IS THE END
OF THE YELLOW BRICK
ROAD FOR YOU,
HOSSES.

Scat

NO! IT'S NOT
GUNS. IT'S SOMETHING
ELSE. SOMETHING BIG. GUY
PAYING GAVE US MORE THAN
ANYONE EVER HAS FOR
TRANSPORTING A PACKAGE.



SCOUGH
SCOUGH PLEASE...
DON'T KILL ME. PLEASE...
THERE'S...THERE'S
ANOTHER SHIPMENT.
SCOUGH SOMETHING
BIGGER.

WHATEVER
IT IS, IT'S IMPORTANT.
PLEASE...PLEASE, I'LL
TELL YOU WHEN IT'S
COMING THROUGH.
WHAT ROAD!

ALRIGHT.
IMPRESS
ME.

THE GIRL IS ALL
QUESTIONS...



...ONE AFTER
ANOTHER AS WE
ENTER THE HOUSE.

"HAVE I BEEN
DOING THIS
LONG, TAKING
IN RUNAWAYS,
REFUGEES?"

A LITTLE
WHILE NOW.

"DO I ONLY
TAKE IN
CHILDREN?"

NO, I HELP ANYONE
WHO NEEDS IT. I HELP
THEM RELOCATE, FIND
A PLACE TO START
OVER, IF THEY'RE
BEING HUNTED.



"FOR A GOOD WHILE
I FOUGHT AGAINST
THE BAD KINDS. BUT
NOW, SEE, ALL
THAT'S OVER. NOW,
I'M FINALLY HOME.

"GOT ALL THAT,
MAY? GOOD."



"WHAT DID I DO BEFORE? DID MY PARENTS USED TO LIVE HERE? WAS I EVER ARRESTED?"

WHAT SHE WANTS, BLESS HER HEART, IS TO KNOW WHO I AM. TO KNOW SHE'S SAFE WITH ME. NO DARK CORNERS FOR SURPRISES.

HOW BADLY I WANT TO GIVE HER THAT, TOO. TO JUST TELL HER, FACT AFTER FACT THE WAY SHE WANTS THEM. ADMITTEDLY, THOUGH, IT'D BE A LOT TO ABSORB BETWEEN HERE AND HER ROOM, AND SHE'S HAD A LONG DAY TO SAY THE LEAST.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO HER? MY REAL NAME? PEARL JONES. MY AGE? SIXTY-FIVE. THAT'S RIGHT, SIXTY-FIVE.

"SEE, MAY, I WAS AN ACTRESS IN HOLLYWOOD IN 1925 WHEN I WAS KILLED BY VAMPIRES. THE DRACULA KIND, YES.

"LUCKILY, THOUGH, I WAS SAVED BY A STRANGER, AND REBORN AS A NEW KIND OF MONSTER, A STRONGER KIND THAT CAN WALK IN THE SUN. ABOMINUS AMERICANA. AN AMERICAN VAMPIRE."



THE GUEST ROOM'S DOWN HERE. USED TO BE A STORM SHELTER, BUT MY FATHER EXPANDED IT DURING THE NUCLEAR SCARES.



IS IT DARK DOWN THERE?

NO. IT'S SAFE, I PROMISE. NOW COME ON...



...LET'S
MEET YOUR
NEW
ROOMIES.

WHOA.

IT'S OKAY, MAY.
THEY'RE LIKE YOU. THEY'RE
STAYING HERE UNTIL I FIND THEM
A PLACE TO GO, TO. AND
JUST LIKE THEM, YOU CAN STAY
HERE AS LONG AS YOU
NEED, OKAY?

NOW, FOR
INTRODUCTIONS...

...MAY, THIS IS
KILLIAN. KILLIAN,
MAY.

AND THIS
IS LUCIA.

CAN I
SEE YOUR
MOUTH?

AND THIS LITTLE
MONSTER...IS
TRAPP.

WELCOME,
YOU HUNGRY?
I'LL FIX YOU
SOMETHING TO
EAT. WE HAVE
ALL KINDS
OF--

AT YOUR
SERVICE, GOOD
LADY.

I MEANT
YOUR TEETH.
CAN I SEE
THEM?

WHY DON'T
WE GIVE HER A
MOMENT,
TRAPP.

LET HER
RELAX A
BIT F--

NO.

IT'S
OK.

HSSSS!



ALL RIGHT,
ALL RIGHT. MAY,
YOU'VE HAD A
LONG DAY. LET'S
LET YOU
REST.

THERE'LL BE
PLENTY OF TIME FOR
STORIES IN THE MORNING.
AND REMEMBER, ONLY
GOOD GUYS GET TO
STAY HERE, OKAY? NO
BAD EGGS, NOT HUMAN
OR OTHERWISE.
YOU'RE SAFE.

WHOEVER
YOU'RE RUNNING
FROM OUT
THERE, THEY
WON'T FIND
YOU....

"...YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE A
MILLION MILES FROM NOWHERE."



I'M STILL AMAZED
NO ONE'S FOUND
THE DAMN THING
AFTER ALL THIS TIME.

WE PUT IT HERE IN 1876, ME
AND THE BOYS. SEPARATED IT
FROM ITS PULLMAN AND JUST
DRAGGED THE FUCKER OFF THE
PACIFIC LINE INTO THE DESERT.



TOOK US NEARLY TWENTY HORSES TO
HAUL IT JUST A FEW MILES. HALF OF
THEM DIED EN ROUTE, THAT HEAT. YOU
COULD HEAR THEIR HEARTS BURST.

ONCE WE GOT IT
HERE, RONNIE JEEKS
BLASTED A CRATER,
AND WE SANK THE
BASTARD, BURIED IT,
WHEELS TO ROOF.



IT WAS OUR OWN
HOLE IN THE WALL, A
HIDEOUT INVISIBLE
TO ANYONE BUT US.



A HIGH-STYLE TRAIN CAR,
BURIED IN THE GROUND.

WE USED THE PLACE FOR YEARS. IF WE EVER GOT
SEPARATED, WE'D MEET BACK AT THE TRAIN.
HELL, WE USED TO JOKE THAT OUR GHOSTS
WOULD GATHER HERE ONE DAY. JEESIE, THE
BLACKMOUTH BOYS. BACK AT THE TRAIN.

NOW WHO THE FUCK SAID
YOU CAN'T GO HOME?

HEY HEY,
KITTY. MISS
ME?





BROUGHT US
GOODIES.



PRACTICALLY
HAVE, WHEN YOU
LOOK AT IT LAID
OUT: I DIED, OF
COURSE.

I STARTED
A LINE OF RED,
WHITE AND BLUE
UNDEAD. HAD FUN.
TRAVELED. ESCAPED
THE TAXMAN. SORE
FRUIT. SAW SAID
FRUIT ROT...
SIGH, SIGH.



BECAUSE AT THE END OF
THE DAY, SKINNER SWEET
BELONGS HERE, WITH YOU. I
AM THE "SUGAR MAN," OR
WHATEVER BULLSHIT
THEY CALL ME BY.



I AM THE
TERROR OF THE
BORDER, THE
BANDIT IN THE
BURIED TRAIN.

SHIT, IT'S
MY GODDAMN
NATURAL
STATE.



WHAT NOW?

OH, LIKE I KNOW WE GOT ENOUGH, BUT SHIT, MAYBE WE CAN MAKE YOU SOME EARRINGS OR SOMETHING OUT OF THIS BATCH. GRENADE EARRINGS.

AW, I KNOW, I KNOW. BUT IT'S 1965, DOLLY. AIN'T NOBODY TRAFFICS IN JEWELS AND SILKS ANYMORE. IT'S DIRTY ABOVE THE DIRT. DIRTY, DIRTY.

BELIEVE ME, SOME DAYS I FEEL LIKE I'VE LIVED TEN LIVES BETWEEN THE OLD DAYS OF THIS PLACE AND NOW.

BUT DEEP DOWN, I KNEW IT WAS ALL TRAVELING IN FUCKING CIRCLES. CHASING MY TAIL. PRETENDING TO BE THINGS I'M NOT. A SERIES OF ILL-FITTING HATS, MISS KITTY.



BEWARE.



MAY, YOU SCARED ME.
I WAS JUST LOOKING YOU
UP, OR YOUR KIND, RATHER.
I HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT
YET, BUT BASED ON
THOSE PEARLY WHITES,
I'D PUT YOU SOMEWHERE
NEAR ASIATIC-3. WHICH
WOULD MAKE YOU THE
OLDEST SPECIES I'VE
HAD HERE, DO
YOU KNOW
THAT?

BEFORE
THOUGH, DID
YOU SAY
SOMETHING?

NO...
MA'AM. I'M
NOT...I'M NOT
FEELING
WELL.

I'M SORRY TO
HEAR THAT. HERE,
LET'S YOU AND
ME--

OW!

WHAT
IS IT?

IT'S OK,
HONEY, DID
THEY HURT
YOU? LET ME
SEE...



MY
GOD.



MAY, IS
THAT A BITE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE
THAT BEFORE.
WHO DID IT TO
YOU? WHAT
KIND D--



NOT A
KIND. HIM.
THE ONE
BEFORE
THAT.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
WHO ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
WHO, MAY?



THE GRAY
TRADER.

"COMING TO THE
CROSSROADS I SAW
A DARK MAN...." 3





SCHOOL
BUS, EH?



THAT'S
A NEW
ONE.



ALL RIGHT,
CHIEF, TIME
TO HAND OVER
YOUR....



...WARES?



"WHO ARE
YOU?!!!!!"



To be
Continued...

GRAPHIC CONTENT

AMERICAN VAMPIRE: SECOND CYCLE

We're back. Finally. And I could not be more excited.

And look, I know this isn't normally the place for confessional, but humor me for a moment... because even though Rafa and I had always planned a break around the middle of the series, and even though I knew it was coming, and even though I had a lot of other high-profile work in the interim, the honest truth is that being away from this series crushed me. Absolutely crushed me. I've been dying to get back on *American Vampire* (as has Rafa) all year.

So in San Diego this past summer, Rafa and I made a pact: Not only would we never step away again, but we would make this half of the series the best material we've done on the book, hands down.

Now, if you've never read *American Vampire*, this is designed as a perfect jumping-on point. On the other hand (claw?), if you have been reading us, get ready, because all your favorite characters - human and monster - are back. Pearl, Skinner, Calvin, Felicia, Gus, The Ancients, The Firsts, Dracula himself... We spent the first half of the series expanding the world of *American Vampire*, showing you the scope of the mythology. This half is about bringing the characters old and new crashing together with nothing less than the fate of the country hanging in the balance. So get ready for what's been coming all along. Every character, every species, old and new... It all comes down to this. Who is the Gray Trader? Where did the bloodline start? Where will it all end? Who will live and who will die? The war starts here. In issue #1.

— Scott Snyder, Co-creator

AMERICAN VAMPIRE: SECOND CYCLE

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SCOTT SNYDER RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

AMERICAN VAMPIRE SECOND CYCLE



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